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Plaintiff WILLIAM CAPUT ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, alleges on information and belief, except for his own acts and knowledge, the following:

<u>I.</u>

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Defendant NTT SECURITY (US) INC. ("Defendant") is a Connecticut Corporation and at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California.
 - 2. Defendant is a specialized security company providing cybersecurity.
- 3. Plaintiff applied, was hired, and performed work for Defendant in California. Upon information and belief, during the application process, Plaintiff filled out Defendant's standard Notice of Procurement of Consumer/Investigative Report form ("disclosure and authorization form") permitting Solutionary to obtain a consumer report verifying Plaintiff's background and experience for Defendant.
- 4. Upon information and belief, Solutionary obtained such reports in 2016 and 2017, at a minimum.
- 5. Upon Plaintiff's separation from Defendant's employ, Defendant failed to timely pay all wages due.
- 6. Plaintiff now brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and three proposed classes defined as:
 - "all persons who are employed in the United States who filled out Defendant's disclosure and authorization form that included an authorization and a liability release clause at any time during the period beginning two (2) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court." (the "Proposed 2 Year FCRA Class")
 - "all persons who are employed in the United States who filled out Defendant's disclosure and authorization form that included an authorization and a liability release clause at any time during the period beginning five (5) years prior to the filing of this

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Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court." (the "Proposed 5 Year FCRA Class)

"all persons who were employed by Defendant in the State of California who have since separated from Defendant's employment beginning three (3) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court." (the "Proposed Waiting Time Penalty Class")

II.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- The Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's federal claims pursuant to 28 7. U.S.C. §1331 and 15 U.S.C. §1681 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act 15 U.S.C. §1681 et seq. ("FCRA"). This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C §1367.
- 8. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(d) because Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in this district, maintains offices in this district, and the actions at issue took place in this district.

III.

THE PARTIES

PLAINTIFF Α.

- Plaintiff applied, was hired and performed work for Defendant in 9. Cypress, California from January 14, 2013 to August 3, 2018.
- During the application process with Defendant, upon information and 10. belief, Plaintiff was required to fill out Defendant's standard form permitting Defendant to obtain a consumer report verifying Plaintiff's background and experience.
- Plaintiff was confused by the standard disclosure and authorization 11. form and did not understand that Defendant would be requesting a "consumer report" as defined in the FCRA.
- Nonetheless, upon information and belief, Defendant then secured 12. consumer reports from pertaining to Plaintiff in February 2016 and February 2017.

B. DEFENDANT

- 13. Defendant is a Connecticut Corporation. At all times relevant herein, Defendant conducted and continues to conduct business throughout the State of California including hiring and employees such as Plaintiff.
- 14. Defendant's entity address listed with the California Secretary of State is 9420 Underwood Ave, Omaha, NE 68114.
- 15. Defendant requires Plaintiff and all other persons similarly situated to fill out Defendant's standard form permitting Defendant to obtain a consumer report verifying the applicant's background and experience.
- 16. With respect to the events at issue in this case, Defendant is liable for the violations of law described in this Complaint.
- 17. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon allege that each Defendant acted in all respects pertinent to this action as the agent of the other Defendant, and/or carried out a joint scheme, business plan or policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and/or the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendant.

<u>IV.</u>

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 18. The FCRA provides individuals with a number of rights. Specifically, pertaining to employment-related background checks referred to as "consumer reports", the FCRA provides that a prospective employee must give valid consent to the background check. The FCRA requires a signed authorization and disclosure from the applicant, sometimes referred to as a "consent" form.
- 19. The authorization and disclosure form must be executed and signed by the applicant prior to an employer requesting or conducting a background check. Importantly, no extraneous information can be attached or included on the consent form. The authorization and disclosure must stand-alone.
 - 20. In violation of 15 U.S.C. §1681b(b)(2)(A)(i), Defendant has unlawfully

inserted extraneous provisions into its standard forms purporting to grant Defendant

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- 21. In violation of 15 U.S.C.§ 1681b(b)(2)(A)(ii), Defendant has obtained consumer reports regarding Plaintiff and all Proposed Class Members without proper authorization because the authorization and disclosure forms failed to comply with the requirements of the FCRA.
- 22. The inclusion of the liability waiver in Defendant's disclosure and authorization forms invalidates the purported consent and also triggers statutory damages under the FCRA in the amount of up to \$1,000 for each applicant that Defendant obtained a consumer report without a facially valid, executed authorization, as well as punitive damages, equitable relief, and attorneys' fees and costs.
- 23. In addition, Defendant's failure to secure signed disclosure and authorization forms invalidates the purported consent and also triggers statutory damages under the FCRA in the amount of up to \$1,000 for each applicant that Defendant obtained a consumer report without a facially valid, executed authorization, as well as punitive damages, equitable relief, and attorneys' fees and costs.

<u>V.</u>

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

24. Plaintiff applied to work for Defendant in California. In connection

- with his employment application with Defendant, upon information and belief, Plaintiff was required to fill out Defendant's standard disclosure and authorization form permitting Defendant to obtain a consumer report verifying Plaintiff's background and experience. Plaintiff was confused by the standard disclosure and authorization form and did not understand that Defendant would be requesting a "consumer report" as defined in the FCRA and would continue to request such reports throughout his employment. Nonetheless, upon information and belief, Defendant then secured consumer reports in February 2016 and February 2017.
- 25. Upon information and belief, Defendant's standard disclosure and authorization form permitting Defendant to obtain a consumer report verifying Plaintiff's background and experience was not limited just to the authorization, but contained extraneous information including a release of liability.
- 26. Defendant's standard disclosure and authorization form states: "I hereby release Solutionary, Inc., and any and all persons, business entities and governmental agencies, whether public or private, from any and all liability, claims and/or demands, of whatever kind, to me, my heirs or others making such claim or demand on my behalf, for procuring, selling, providing, brokering and/or assisting with the compilation or preparation of the consumer report and/or investigative consumer report hereby authorized."
- 27. Upon information and belief, Defendant required all applicants to complete the same standard disclosure and authorization form permitting Defendant to obtain a consumer report verifying the applicant's background and experience.
- 28. The inclusion of this extraneous information in Defendant's standard disclosure and authorization form permitting Defendant to obtain a consumer report verifying an applicant's background and experience violates the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.
- 29. Under the FCRA, it is unlawful to procure a consumer report or cause a consumer report to be procured for employment purposes, unless:

- (i) a clear and conspicuous disclosure has been made in writing to the consumer at any time before the report is procured or causes to be procured, in a document that consists solely of the disclosure, that a consumer report may be obtained for employment purposes; and
- (ii) the consumer has authorized in writing (which authorization may be made on the document referred to in clause (i)) the procurement of the report.

15 U.S.C. §§ 1681b(b)(2)(A)(i)-(ii)

- 30. Although the disclosure required by clause (i) and the authorization required by clause (ii) may be combined in a single document, the FTC has warned that the form should not include any extraneous information. Further, the FTC has also specifically warned that the inclusion of such a waiver in a disclosure form will violate Section 604(b)(2)(A) of the FCRA [15 U.S.C. §§ 1681b(b)(2)(A), which requires that a disclosure consist solely of the disclosure that a consumer report may be obtained for employment purposes.
- 31. This requirement is meant to prevent the consumer from being distracted by other extraneous information side-by-side with this very important disclosure. The disclosure shall not be diminished in importance by including unrelated information. The disclosure must be clear and conspicuous, understandable and noticeable.
- 32. By including extraneous information in its standard form permitting Defendant to obtain a consumer report verifying the applicant's background and experience, Defendant's conduct is contrary to the plain language of the statute. Defendant willfully disregarded the FTC's regulatory guidance and violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681b(b)(2)(A).
- 33. Defendants' failure to provide a clear disclosure, in a document that consists solely of the disclosure, deprived Plaintiff and others similarly situated of the right to information and the right to privacy guaranteed by 15 U.S.C. section 1681b(n)(2)(A)(i)–(ii). Because Defendant unlawfully included extraneous information in its standard form permitting Defendant to obtain a consumer report

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verifying Plaintiff's background and experience, Plaintiff was confused by the standard form document and did not understand that Defendant would be requesting a "consumer report" as defined in the FCRA.

Defendant willfully failed to pay wages and compensation, when 34. Plaintiff and all Proposed Waiting Time Penalty Class Members quit or were discharged. This failure was willful, without legal justification, and interfered with Plaintiff's and Class Members' rights.

VI.

THE CLASSES

Plaintiff brings the First and Second Causes of Action on behalf of 35. himself and all others similarly situated as a Class Action pursuant to Rule 23(a) and 23(b)(3) of the F.R.C.P. Plaintiff satisfies the requirements of Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) for the prosecution of this action as a class action. As to the first and second causes of action, Plaintiff seeks to represent two Classes composed of and defined as follows:

> "all persons who are employed in the United States who filled out Defendant's disclosure and authorization form that included an authorization and a liability release clause at any time during the period beginning two (2) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court." (the "Proposed 2 Year FCRA Class")

> "all persons who are employed in the United States who filled out Defendant's disclosure and authorization form that included an authorization and a liability release clause at any time during the period beginning five (5) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court." (the "Proposed 5 Year FCRA Class)

Plaintiff brings the Third Cause of Action on behalf of himself and all 36. others similarly situated as a Class Action pursuant to Rule 23(a) and 23(b)(3) of the F.R.C.P. Plaintiff satisfies the requirements of Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) for the

prosecution of this action as a class action. As to the third cause of action, Plaintiff

seeks to represent one Class composed of and defined as follows:

"all persons who were employed by Defendant in the State of California who have since separated from Defendant's employment beginning

who have since separated from Defendant's employment beginning three (3) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as determined by the Court." (the "Proposed Waiting Time Penalty Class")

- 37. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend or modify the Class descriptions with greater specificity or further division into subclasses or limitation to particular issues.
- 38. Defendant, as a matter of corporate policy, practice, and procedure, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1681, et seq., intentionally, knowingly, and willfully, engaged in a practice whereby Defendant uniformly, unfairly, and unlawfully instituted a policy of obtaining consumer reports without valid authorization to do so.
- 39. Defendant uniformly violated the rights of the Proposed FCRA Class by violating the FCRA 15 U.S.C. §1681b(b)(2)(A)(i)-(ii) by unlawfully obtaining consumer reports without first obtaining valid signed authorization and disclosure forms.
- 40. Defendant, as a matter of corporate policy, practice, and procedure, in violation of Cal. Labor Code §203 intentionally, knowingly, and willfully, engaged in a practice whereby Defendant uniformly, unfairly, and unlawfully failed to pay all wages due upon the Proposed Waiting Time Penalty Class members' separation from Defendant.
- 41. This class action on behalf of members of the Proposed Classes meets the statutory prerequisites for the maintenance of a class action as set forth in Rule 23(a) and 23(b)(3) of the F.R.C.P.
 - A. Numerosity
 - 42. The Proposed Classes are so numerous that joinder of all class members

is impracticable. While the precise number of members of the Classes has not been determined at this time, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant, during the relevant period, had applicants and former employees that numbered well over 1,000.

- 43. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant's records will provide information as to the number of all members of the Proposed Classes.
 - B. Commonality
- 44. There are questions of law and fact common to the Proposed Classes that predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Classes. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:
 - a. As to the two proposed FCRA Classes:
 - Whether Defendant required members of the Proposed Class to fill out a standard application form permitting Defendant to obtain a consumer report verifying the applicant's background and experience;
 - ii. Whether Defendant's standard application form permitting Defendant to obtain a consumer report verifying the applicant's background and experience complies with 15 U.S.C. §1681, et seq.;
 - iii. Whether Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §1681, et seq. by including extraneous information in its standard application form permitting Defendant to obtain a consumer report verifying the applicant's background and experience;
 - iv. Whether Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §1681, et seq. by failing to obtain signatures on its disclosure and authorization form;
 - v. Whether Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §1681, et seq. by procuring consumer reports without valid authorization; and
 - vi. Whether Defendant's violations of 15 U.S.C. §1681, et seq. were

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willful.

- b. As to the Proposed Waiting Time Penalty Class:
 - i. Whether Defendant violated §§ 201-203 of the Labor Code by failing to pay compensation due and owing at the time that any Proposed Class Member's employment with Defendant terminated;
- C. **Typicality**
- The claims of the named Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the 45. members of the Proposed Classes.
- Plaintiff is a member of the Proposed Classes. Plaintiff was an applicant 46. and filled out Defendant's standard form permitting Defendant to obtain a consumer report verifying an applicant's background and experience during his application process. Plaintiff was not paid all wages timely upon his separation from Defendant's employment. Plaintiff was subjected to the same unlawful practices as other members of the Proposed Classes.
- Plaintiff and other members of the Proposed Class suffered the same 47. injuries and seek the same relief.
 - Adequacy of Representation D.
- Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of 48. the members of the Proposed Class.
- Counsel for Plaintiff are competent and experience in litigation large 49. complex consumer and wage and hour class actions.
 - Predominance and Superiority of a Class Action E.
- A class action is superior to other available means for fair and efficient 50. adjudication of this controversy. Individual joinder of all members of the Proposed Classes is not practicable, and questions of law and fact common to the Classes predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Proposed Classes.

- 51. Class action treatment will allow those similarly situated persons to litigate their claims in the manner that is most efficient and economical for the parties and the judicial system. Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.
- 52. Class action treatment will allow a large number of similarly situated agricultural employees to prosecute their common claims in a single forum, simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would require. Further, the monetary amounts due to many individual class members are likely to be relatively small, and the burden and expense of individual litigation would make it difficult or impossible for individual members of the members of the Proposed Classes to seek and obtain relief. Moreover, a class action will serve an important public interest by permitting employees harmed by Defendant's unlawful practices to effectively pursue recovery of the sums owed to them.

VII.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO MAKE PROPER DISCLOSURE IN VIOLATION OF THE FCRA

[15 U.S.C. § 1681b(b)(2)(A)(I), ET SEQ.]

(BY PLAINTIFF AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE PROPOSED FCRA CLASSES AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 53. Plaintiff, and the other members of the Proposed FCRA Classes, realleges and incorporates by this reference, as though set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this complaint.
- 54. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §1681b(b)(2)(A)(i) of the FCRA by including extraneous information in its standard application form permitting it to obtain a consumer report verifying an applicant's background and experience that

Defendant required Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Class to fill out as a condition of seeking employment with Defendant.

- 55. The violations of the FCRA were willful. Defendant knew that its standard application form permitting it to obtain a consumer report verifying an applicant's background and experience should not include extraneous information that is prohibited by the FCRA, and acted in deliberate disregard of its obligations and the rights of Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Class under 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(b)(2)(A)(i).
- 56. Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Classes are entitled to statutory damages of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000 for every violation of the FCRA, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(1)(A).
- 57. Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Classes are also entitled to punitive damages for these violations, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1681n(a)(2).
- 58. Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Classes are further entitled to recover their costs and attorneys' fees, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1681n(a)(3).

VIII.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

FOR FAILURE TO OBTAIN PROPER AUTHORIZATION IN VIOLATION OF THE FCRA

[15 U.S.C. § 1681b(b)(2)(A)(II)]

(BY PLAINTIFF AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE PROPOSED FCRA CLASSES AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 59. Plaintiff, and the other members of the Proposed Classes, realleges and incorporates by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 60. Defendant violated the FCRA by procuring consumer reports relating to Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Classes without proper

authorization. See 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(b)(2)(A)(ii).

- 61. The violations of the FCRA were willful. Defendant acted in deliberate disregard of its obligations and the rights of Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Classes under 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(b)(2)(A)(ii).
- 62. Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Classes are entitled to statutory damages of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000 for every violation of the FCRA, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(1)(A).
- 63. Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Classes are also entitled to punitive damages for these violations, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(2).
- 64. Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Classes are further entitled to recover their costs and attorneys' fees, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(3).

IV.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

FOR WAITING TIME PENALTIES

[LABOR CODE §201-203]

(BY PLAINTIFF AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE PROPOSED WAITING TIME PENALTY CLASS AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 65. Plaintiff, and the other members of the Proposed Class, realleges and incorporates by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 66. Numerous members of the Proposed Class including the Plaintiff are no longer employed by Defendant. They were either fired or quit Defendant's employ.
- 67. Defendant has failed to pay Plaintiff and all members of the Proposed Class their final wages in compliance with Labor Code §203.
- 68. In addition, Defendant's failure to pay wages, as alleged above, was willful in that Defendant knew wages to be due but failed to pay them, thus entitling

of up to thirty (30) days from the time they were due.

69. Defendant has failed to pay Plaintiff and others a sum certain at the time of termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of their resignation, and have failed

Plaintiff and the Proposed Class to penalties under Labor Code § 203, which

provides that an employee's wages shall continue as a penalty until paid for a period

to pay those sums for thirty (30) days thereafter. Pursuant to the provisions of Labor Code § 203, Plaintiff and the Proposed Class are entitled to a penalty in the amount of Plaintiff's and the Proposed Class Members' daily wage multiplied by thirty (30) days.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against each Defendant, jointly and severally, as follows:

- 1. On behalf of the Proposed FCRA Classes:
 - A) That the Court certify the First and Second Causes of Action asserted by the Proposed Classes as a Class Action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 23(b)(2) and/or (3);
 - B) A determination and judgment that Defendant willfully violated 15 U.S.C. § 1681(b)(2)(A)(i) and(ii) of the FCRA by improperly including extraneous information in its standard application form permitting it to obtain a consumer report verifying an applicant's background and experience and by obtaining consumer reports on Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Class without having proper authorization to do so;
 - C) Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(1)(A), an award of statutory damages to Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Class in an amount equal to \$1,000 for Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Class for Defendant's willful violation of the FCRA;

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1	D) Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(2), an award of punitive damages
2	to Plaintiff and all other members of the Proposed Class;
3	E) An award for costs of suit and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant
4	to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(3); and,
5	F) Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.
6	2. On behalf of the Proposed Waiting Time Penalty Class
7	A) That the Court certify the Third Cause of Action asserted by the
8	Proposed Classes as a Class Action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. Proc.
9	23(b)(2) and/or (3);
10	B) For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 203 for all employees who
11	were terminated or resigned equal to their daily wage times thirty
12	(30) days;
13	C) An award for costs of suit and reasonable attorneys' fees as
14	appropriate; and,
15	D) Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable
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17	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
18	DATED: November 6, 2018 KINGSLEY, & KINGSLEY, APC
19	By:
20	Eric B. Kingsley
21	Kelsey M. Szamet Attorneys for Plaintiff
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	16 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT